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process uses air, which is reliable and cost effective. Because of space constraints, high purity oxygen is used at West Point. The high purity oxygen is more efficient at oxygen transfer and requires deeper, covered tanks, which need less surface area and a smaller footprint. Another emerging technology to consider for Brightwater uses membranes to clean the wastewater and provide secondary treatment.

Disinfection

The next stage of the treatment process is disinfection, which destroys or deactivates any remaining organisms before the treated wastewater is sent to Puget Sound. Chemical and ultraviolet disinfection are being considered. Sodium hypochlorite, a more concentrated form of common household bleach, can be used instead of chlorine for chemical disinfection. Ultraviolet disinfection is another option in which the wastewater flow passes through high intensity light that deactivates the bacteria.

Reclaimed Water

Some wastewater is treated to a very high level so it can be reused safely for non-drinking water purposes such as landscape irrigation and industrial processes. This is an important water conservation tool used extensively in other states. Processes to reclaim wastewater could involve sand filters and membranes.

Biosolids

The material that is removed from the water during primary and secondary treatment is treated to make biosolids, a nutrient-rich material that can be recycled as a soil amendment and is used in farming, forestry, and landscaping. A byproduct of biosolids treatment is methane gas, which is used as a fuel to generate heat or electricity.

Odor Control

Various methods for controlling odors include covering portions of the treatment process to prevent odors from being released to the atmosphere and using carbon filters, chemical scrubbers, or compost-like "biofilters" to filter the air.

King County is committed to exploring the latest technology and choosing the right process for each situation, wherever Brightwater is located. It is likely that Brightwater will use a blend of reliable, proven technology with cutting edge systems.

King County Executive Ron Sims holds up reclaimed water. We can save water by using it over and over again.

Speaker's Bureau

Brightwater staff want to answer your questions and hear your thoughts about the project.

Project Team Members are available to talk with you and are happy to come out to:

- your church, synagogue or mosque
- your neighborhood association meeting
- your community block watch meeting
- your homeowners association meeting
- your social club gathering
- your community picnic or festival
- your community council meeting
- your PTA meetings
- your community's youth groups meetings
- your company's staff meetings

Your concerns are important to us. We want to hear your thoughts and ideas as we continue forward in this siting process.

To invite a speaker, call our toll free number at 1-888-707-8571 or call Debra Ross at 206-684-1344.

BrightWater
for a Sound future

Inside This Issue

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BrightWater
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Environmental Impact Statement Process

A new wastewater treatment system called Brightwater is needed to treat wastewater from south Snohomish and north King counties and to protect public health and the environment. Many studies are currently underway to help make Brightwater a good neighbor and protect the environment.

Many of these studies come together in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This document will analyze the environmental effects of construction and operating the entire wastewater system under consideration (treatment plant, conveyance pipes and pump stations, and outfall). The detailed environmental review will begin in May 2002 on the two system alternatives now under consideration: Edmonds Unocal and Route 9. Traffic conditions, land use, geotechnical conditions, marine resources, water resources, noise, endangered species habitat, and cultural resources are among the issues being studied.

The purpose of the environmental review is to assess the existing environmental condition of the areas, analyze the environmental impacts of the Brightwater project, and identify appropriate mitigation to address these impacts.

Citizens involved at every step

The environmental process is designed to be open and accessible to citizens and make it easy for people to share their opinions. The process includes two key opportunities for citizens to be involved. The first will be at a series of scoping meetings held in May 2002. "Scoping" refers to issues to be covered in the EIS and invites citizens to help identify potential environmental impacts that should be studied. During the scoping period, citizens and agencies can submit written comments to be considered during development of the EIS, or they can make verbal comments at a scoping meeting. This is an important point

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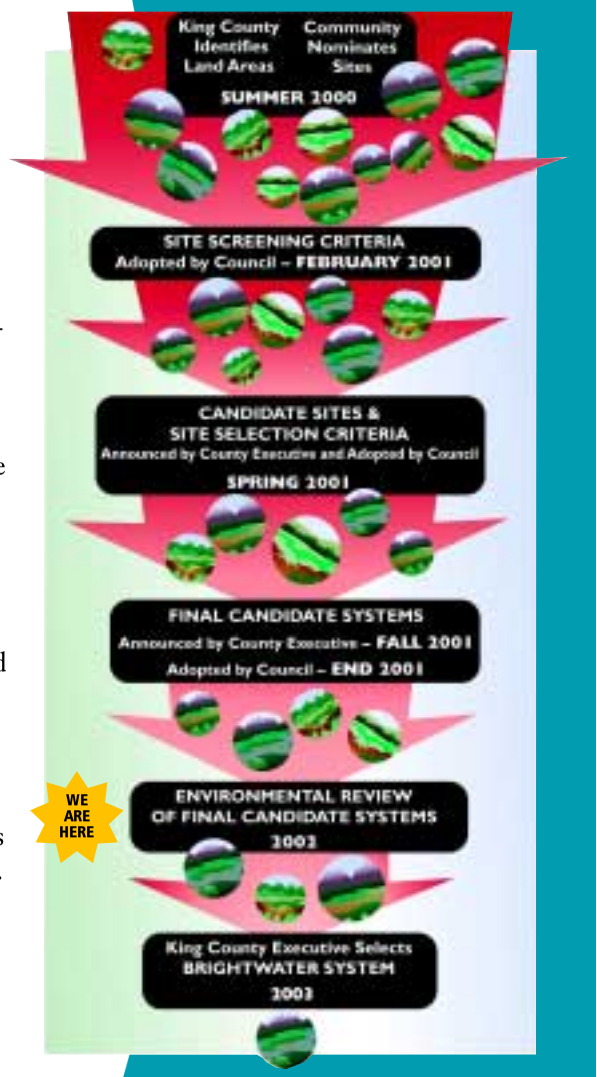
Project Web Site

Learn more about the project and important decision-making milestones by visiting us at ***http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/brightwater/***

Check your mailbox for opportunities to get involved this May.



King County

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for citizen involvement and an opportunity for King County to learn which elements of the project are important to people in the project area.

Another opportunity for community members to participate will be after the draft EIS is issued in October 2002. A series of public hearings will be held in the project area during the 45-day comment period, where citizens can comment on the draft EIS. King County will respond to all comments in the final EIS, due to be issued in the spring of 2003.

The Brightwater EIS will be thorough and well researched. Here are some examples of the kinds of things King County will study in the EIS.

The North Creek Pump Station in Bothell was completed in 1999. A large copper sculpture, part of the King County public art program, is incorporated into the building design. Pump stations are part of the conveyance system that transports wastewater to and from the treatment plants.

Traffic Studies

King County will conduct studies of current traffic conditions in the siting area and the impacts of additional traffic resulting from constructing and operating the facilities. The EIS will develop solutions to mitigate or reduce these impacts. Examples of mitigation include managing construction truck traffic to avoid peak congestion hours or only allowing a specified number of trucks to leave the construction site per hour.

Wetland Studies

Another step in the EIS process involves identifying and characterizing wetlands. Biologists will collect information about soils, vegetation, and water resources to determine the function and value of wetlands. Wetlands can vary from poor quality roadside ditches to high quality forested wetlands that provide valuable habitat for a variety of animal and plant species. When it appears that wetlands may be impacted by the proposed project, the wetlands are measured and the boundaries are delineated to determine the appropriate mitigation. Mitigation could consist of enhancing other nearby wetlands or selecting a construction method to minimize disruption.

Geotechnical Studies

Geotechnical work along the proposed pipeline routes will provide information about the geology, soils, and groundwater of the area. This will help determine potential locations for the pipes that will carry treated and untreated wastewater to and from the Brightwater Treatment Plant. This information is obtained by drilling small diameter holes up to 440 feet deep and analyzing the materials that are brought to the surface. Data collected here will determine whether or not the deep tunneling proposals are feasible for conveyance pipes.

Geotechnical investigations are also being conducted at the proposed treatment plant sites. The information will allow engineers to estimate how much excavation is necessary for building foundations and the number of truck trips required to remove the soil. The geotechnical work will also help determine the type of foundations needed for the facility.

BRIGHTWATER
FOR A SOUND FUTURE

Commonly Asked Questions About Brightwater

Q. What is the role of the siting advisory committee?

In June 2000, King County Executive Ron Sims and Snohomish County Executive Bob Drewel jointly appointed members to the Brightwater Siting Advisory Committee. The role of the Committee is to review the overall Brightwater Treatment Facilities siting process and to advise the two county executives on a variety of policy issues and regional concerns. The members bring a regional perspective to the siting process, and serve on behalf of tribal governments, local jurisdictions and special districts in the siting area, as well as regional labor, business, and environmental organizations and agencies. The Committee functions in an advisory capacity and is not charged with making site selection decisions.

Q: Why is Edmonds being considered for Brightwater when there are already two treatment plants within the city limits?

Siting Brightwater in Edmonds could help to consolidate some of the facilities – flows from the Edmonds and Lynnwood plants could be incorporated into Brightwater, offering new opportunities at these locations. The existing treatment plants could use the new longer, deeper Brightwater outfall to improve Puget Sound water quality in the Edmonds area. We are looking at how this could be achieved in such a way that reduces the overall environmental impacts and is fair to King County's current ratepayers and the cities of Edmonds and Lynnwood and their ratepayers.

Q. Many neighbors of the Route 9 site are on septic systems. Would they hook them up to Brightwater?

Local sewer agencies contract with King County to treat wastewater from their area. The decision of where to build or extend service lines rests with the local wastewater districts and agencies. These decisions are based on local land use decisions. By state law, wastewater service is only provided within designated Urban Growth Areas, with few exceptions. It's possible that residents in the Route 9 area could be served by Brightwater if they are within the Urban Growth Area. The timing for local sewers to be installed in an area could be months or many years from now and is up to the local wastewater district.

Q. Why wouldn't King County automatically select the cheapest site?

Cost is a key factor that must be considered when deciding where to locate Brightwater, but it is not the only factor. Environmental, technical, and community considerations will also play a key role. For example, although Route 9 is the more expensive option, it offers a large site which allows flexibility in design and many opportunities to enhance the community with landscaped buffers, open space, or other amenities like sports fields or education centers to mitigate potential project impacts. Due to its location, the site offers opportunities to use reclaimed water for purposes like irrigation and industrial processes. This is an important water conservation consideration as our drinking water supply reaches its limits. Cost must be weighed with additional factors like these in making a decision.

Q. What about property values?

A. We understand that potential impact to property values is of great concern. We cannot give a specific answer because there are many variables that affect property values, such as national, regional and local economies. However, there are many examples of high priced land adjacent to other wastewater treatment facilities that have not been negatively affected. King County is committed to being a good neighbor and designing the Brightwater plant in a manner that meets the needs of surrounding neighbors and communities, provides the highest quality odor control, and can be viewed as an amenity by the surrounding community.

In 1958, citizens voted to build a regional wastewater system to clean the polluted waters of Lake Washington and Puget Sound.

Selecting the Right Technology

The Brightwater team is evaluating a number of wastewater technologies to understand which options are the most effective for each site under consideration. The team will evaluate both conventional and emerging technologies to make the best use of available space and to provide reliable and cost-effective wastewater treatment. This evaluation will be folded into the environmental review process. All aspects of the treatment process will be considered, including primary, and secondary treatment, disinfection, water reclamation, solids handling, and odor control.

Primary Treatment

During primary treatment, gravity is used to separate out most of the solids in the wastewater. Traditionally, sedimentation tanks are rectangular. New processes with circular tanks, which use less space, will be evaluated.

Secondary Treatment

Primary treatment is followed by secondary treatment, a system that uses bacteria to clean the water and oxygen to help the bacteria do their job. King County currently uses different methods for aerating the wastewater at the West Point Plant in Seattle and the South Plant in Renton. At the South Plant, the conventional

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TEAR HERE

What do you think is important to consider when selecting a site and pipeline routes for our facilities? Mail or fax this form to Debra Ross at the number listed below.

Send us your comments, concerns or ideas.

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